

25 September 2008

## Chem-Bio News

**1. ISRAELI NUCLEAR WHISTLEBLOWER'S JAIL TERM REDUCED:** *"An Israeli court on Tuesday halved a six-month sentence against nuclear whistleblower Mordechai Vanunu, who spent 18 years in jail for divulging Israeli nuclear secrets."*

**2. CDC EXPECTS PLENTIFUL, ON-TARGET FLU VACCINE:** *"Public health and medical leaders predicted today that this year's influenza vaccine will match up well with circulating flu viruses—unlike last year's vaccine—and that plenty of doses will be available."*

**3. NRC DENIES PETITION CALLING FOR STEPPED-UP ANTI-TERRORIST PREPARATIONS:** *"The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) has tossed out a petition submitted by two nonprofit government-oversight groups that would have required the nation's nuclear power plants to demonstrate periodically that they're prepared to withstand severe forms of radiological sabotage inflicted on their facilities by terrorists."*

**4. U.S. LAWMAKERS TO CONSIDER SECURITY AT NUCLEAR LABS:** *"The House Energy and Commerce Committee has scheduled a hearing for Thursday to again review security at the U.S. national laboratories."*

## Chem-Demil News

**1. OPCW FAILS TO AGREE ON BUDGET, RUSSIAN REQUEST FOR EXTENSION:** *"Meeting September 10-13, the executive council of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), the international body responsible for overseeing the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC), was unable to agree on a budget for 2003 or on Russian requests to extend deadlines for chemical weapons destruction."*

# CB Daily Report

## Chem-Bio News

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### ISRAELI NUCLEAR WHISTLEBLOWER'S JAIL TERM REDUCED

SpaceWar.com

September 23, 2008

"An Israeli court on Tuesday halved a six-month sentence against nuclear whistleblower Mordechai Vanunu, who spent 18 years in jail for divulging Israeli nuclear secrets,

"Considering his ailing health and the absence of indications that his actions put the country's security at risk, we believe his sentence should be reduced," the judges said.

"Vanunu, 54, had been sentenced to six months for violating bans on travel and contact with foreign media in 2007, three years after he was released from jail for disclosing the inner

workings of Israel's Dimona nuclear plant to Britain's Sunday Times newspaper."

"Vanunu became an international cause celebre during his time in prison. At home, he is still widely reviled for converting to Christianity shortly before he was kidnapped in Italy and jailed in 1986 after being covertly shipped back to the Jewish state.

Israel is widely believed to be the only nuclear power in the Middle East, with around 200 nuclear warheads, but has a policy of neither confirming nor denying that."

The full article can be found at: <http://www.spacewar.com/2006/080923160825.o88igtql.html>

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## **CDC EXPECTS PLENTIFUL, ON-TARGET FLU VACCINE**

By Robert Roos

CIDRAP News (Center for Infectious Disease Research & Policy – University of Minnesota)  
September 24, 2008

"Public health and medical leaders predicted today that this year's influenza vaccine will match up well with circulating flu viruses—unlike last year's vaccine—and that plenty of doses will be available.

"We are optimistic that this year's vaccine will be on target in protecting against the flu," said Dr. Daniel B. Jernigan of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), in a news release from the National Foundation for Infectious Diseases (NFID).

"Last year at this time we had an indication that the vaccine might not be as effective," Jernigan said at a press conference held today to promote flu immunization as flu season approaches. "There is no such indication this time."

The full article can be found at: <http://www.cidrap.umn.edu/cidrap/content/influenza/general/news/sep2408immune.html>

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## **NRC DENIES PETITION CALLING FOR STEPPED-UP ANTI-TERRORIST PREPARATIONS**

By Jacob Goodwin

Government Security News

September 24, 2008

"The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) has tossed out a petition submitted by two nonprofit government-oversight groups that would have required the nation's nuclear power plants to demonstrate periodically that they're prepared to withstand severe forms of

radiological sabotage inflicted on their facilities by terrorists.

The NRC determined that the petition, submitted on behalf of the Project on Government Oversight (POGO) and the Union of Concerned Scientists, should be dismissed because the NRC lacks the governmental authority to make such rule changes, because it would be difficult to establish proper criteria to measure the severity of a radiological attack, and because the NRC has no authority to compel state and local governments to participate in the requested joint training exercises."

The full article can be found at: <http://www.gsnmagazine.com/cms/features/news-analysis/1044.html>

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## **U.S. LAWMAKERS TO CONSIDER SECURITY AT NUCLEAR LABS**

Global Security Newswire

September 24, 2008

"The House Energy and Commerce Committee has scheduled a hearing for Thursday to again review security at the U.S. national laboratories.

Panel members have been particularly critical of security at the Los Alamos National Laboratory in New Mexico. Representative Joe Barton (R-Texas) said in July that the research site was operated more like a "corner hamburger stand than the crown jewel of the nation's nuclear weapons program."

"The Government Accountability Office in February identified 57 security breaches involving classified material at Los Alamos, stating that 37 of the incidents could have proven dangerous to U.S. national security. Another GAO report in July said that "complete solutions" still had not been enacted for classified nuclear information at Los Alamos and that the laboratory still lacked a plan to maintain security upgrades."

The full article can be found at: [http://www.nti.org/d\\_newswire/issues/2008\\_9\\_23.html#11A53802](http://www.nti.org/d_newswire/issues/2008_9_23.html#11A53802)

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## ***Chem-Demil News***

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### **OPCW FAILS TO AGREE ON BUDGET, RUSSIAN REQUEST FOR EXTENSION**

Arms Control Association

September 2008

"Meeting September 10-13, the executive council of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), the international body responsible for overseeing the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC), was unable to agree on a budget for 2003 or on Russian requests to extend deadlines for chemical weapons destruction.

The council is responsible for recommending a budget to the Conference of the States-Parties, which will meet October 7-11. The council is scheduled to meet again October 3 and might decide on a budget then."

"Speaking before the council and again a week later in Washington, Pfirter called for more financial support for the organization, particularly as Russia plans to begin operations at the Gornyy chemical weapons destruction facility in December and as the United States plans to begin destroying chemical weapons at three more facilities before 2004. Between 2003 and 2005, Pfirter said he expects the number of facilities dismantling chemical weapons to double from six to 12, significantly increasing the workload of the OPCW, which is responsible for inspecting the facilities.

The council also did not decide on Russian requests to extend deadlines for destroying its chemical weapons stockpile. States-parties had agreed in the CWC to destroy their entire Category 1 stockpiles—the most dangerous chemicals—by April 29, 2007, but Russia has said that it will miss that deadline and earlier incremental deadlines.

The council made progress in other areas, however, including finalizing facility agreements to carry out inspections at U.S. chemical weapons destruction facilities in Tooele, Utah, and Anniston, Alabama."

The full article can be found at: <http://www.armscontrol.org/print/1133>

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